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BOOK THREE:
X-MEN
MEN & X-MEN



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CHRIS CLAREMONT • SEAN CHEN

PREVIOUSLY

TWO SNAPSHOT MOMENTS FROM MY LIFE PRETTY MUCH SUM UP WHY I'M HERE, BOTH FROM BACK IN THE DAYS WHEN THE X-MEN WERE CLANDESTINE AND OUR IDENTITIES AS MUTANTS A CLOSELY HELD SECRET.

THIS KID I KNEW CALLED ME A "MUTIE-LOVER" AND I DECKED HIM. MY TEACHER, WHO WAS THE BEST, TRIED TO CALM ME DOWN BY TELLING ME THEY'RE ONLY WORDS. AND I FIRED BACK, WITHOUT EVEN THINKING, BECAUSE SHE'S BLACK, THE CRUELEST, MOST RACIST WORD I COULD THINK OF, DEMANDING:

"WOULD YOU BE SO PAMM TOLERANT, THEN?"

SHE HAD NO ANSWER.

ANOTHER TIME, MUCH LATER, I MET THIS BOY, LARRY BOPINE. WE KIND'A HIT IT OFF. TURNED OUT HE WAS A MUTANT. HE MADE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SCULPTURES OUT OF LIGHT.

BUT I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO TELL HIM ABOUT XAVIER'S BECAUSE SOME OTHER KIDS AT SCHOOL THREATENED TO OUTHIM. "WE KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, WE KNOW WHAT YOU DO, AND WE'RE GONNA TELL."

TERRIFIED, HE KILLED HIMSELF.

BUT AT HIS FUNERAL MEMORIAL, AS I SPOKE HIS EULOGY, I COULDN'T FIND THE COURAGE TO ADMIT THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF, THAT I WAS A MUTANT, TOO. BECAUSE, EVEN THOUGH I WAS AN X-MAN, I WAS JUST AS SCARED.

KURT WAGNER

KYMRI WAGNER

TALIA JOSEPHINE WAGNER

TJ WAGNER

CERISE WAGNER

NOBODY SHOULD BE THE OBJECT OF SO MUCH HATE. NOBODY SHOULD HAVE TO FEEL SO AFRAID, SIMPLY FOR EXISTING.

BECAUSE WHEN YOU EMBRACE THOSE DARK ABSOLUTES OF THE SOUL, YOU EMBRACE THE ESSENCE OF EVIL... THE DREAM THAT INSPIRED THE X-MEN WAS TO ASPIRE TO SOMETHING BETTER.

IN PURSUIT OF THAT DREAM, TO STAVE OFF OUTRIGHT WAR, THEY TRAVELED TO THE SHI'AR HOMEWORLD, CHANDILAR.

CHARLES XAVIER HOPED TO EFFECT A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THIS CONFLICT, DISCOVERING TOO LATE THAT THE ONLY RESOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO HIS ADVERSARY WAS HIS DEATH, AND OUR ANNIHILATION.

COMING TO THE PROFESSOR'S AID, CYCLOPS FOUND HIS STRIKE TEAM OF X-MEN IN A PITCHED BATTLE WITH THE IMPERIAL SUPERGUARDIANS. AND JUST WHEN THEY THOUGHT THINGS COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE...

THE
ELECTION--
DO YOU THINK
YOU'LL WIN?

DR. MAUREEN LYSZINSKI
HAS BEEN MY THERAPIST
NEARLY HALF MY LIFE.

I OWE HER MORE THAN
I CAN EVER REPAY.

I HAVE
TO. "WE"
HAVE TO.

ALWAYS "WE"
IN THIS CONTEXT,
KATHERINE. SO
RARELY "I".

OLD
HABIT, I GUESS.

PUSH COMES TO
SHOVE, THE X-MEN
END UP FIGHTING FOR
THE WHOLE HUMAN
RACE.

AND YOU WISH
YOU WERE WITH
THEM.

YOU CAN TAKE
THE GIRL OUT OF
THE COSTUME.

IT'S A LOT
HARDER TO
TAKE THE "X"
OUT OF THE
GIRL.



THAT'S
VERY
CLEVER.

I MAY WISH I
WAS OUT THERE,
MAUREEN--

--BUT THIS
IS WHERE I
BELONG.



FROM ALL YOU'VE
TOLD ME, I UNDERSTAND
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
X-MEN'S BATTLE.

WHAT
MAKES
YOURS SO
SPECIAL?



I'M A
MUTANT.

AREN'T WE
PAST THOSE
DISTINCTIONS?

ALICE
TREMAINE
STILL
REFUSES TO
CONCEDE
WE'RE EVEN
HUMAN.



AND SHE'S SLICK
ENOUGH TO CONVINCE
A LOT OF PEOPLE TO
BELIEVE HER.

IF I WIN AS
MAYOR, WHEN
I PROVE I CAN
DO THE JOB, THAT
CHANGES
PERCEPTIONS ON A
BEDROCK
LEVEL.

BELIEVE ME,
MAUREEN. THE
DARKER ANGELS
OF OUR NATURE--
SAPIEN AND MUTANT--
DON'T NEED ANY
ENCOURAGE-
MENT.



SO WHAT'S YOUR
SOLUTION?

SHOW FOLKS
THE WAY BACK
TO THE LIGHT.

PROVE
THAT WE'RE NOT
MONSTERS.



WHY
YOU?

BECAUSE
I'M LIKE
YOU, DOC.

I'VE SERVED
MY TIME IN THE
VALLEY OF THE
SHADOW. FOR
MY KIDS, I WANT
BETTER.

SUPER-
GUARDIANS--
MY MOTHER
IS DEAD!

THE MAJESTRIX
SHI'AR HAS BEEN
MURDERED--

--BY HER FORMER
CONSORT, MY OWN
SIRE--CHARLES
XAVIER!

FOR THIS
CRIME, HE AND
HIS ACCURSED
X-MEN--MUST
DIE!



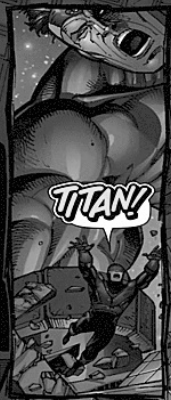
X-MEN: THE END
BOOK III

BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & SEAN CHEN

THE DIE IS CAST!

SANDU FLOREA INKS AVALON'S IAN HANNIN COLORS
DAVE SHARPE LETTERS SCHMIDT, SITTERSON & LAZER ASST. EDITORS
TOM BREVOORT EDITOR JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER







THAT'S
THE SPIRIT.
MY IMPERIALS.
A VENGE YOUR
SLAUGHTERED
RULER.

CRUSH
THE MUTANTS.
SHOW THEM NO
MERCY!

LET ME
HEAR THEM
SCREAM!



FALLING
FALLING
FALLING...

APPRECIATE
THE UPDATE,
PHOEBE.

JUST STOP
WRIGGLING,
KAY?

I'LL ONLY
HAVE ONE
SHOT...



...AT
THIS!

SID, YOU
HAVE ME--

--BUT WHO
HAS YOU?!



GOTCHA!

HANG TIGHT.
"DAD," I'LL JUST
NEED A COUPLE
OF--!

YOU'RE
PONE,
MUTANT!



UNDERSTANDABLE
ARROGANCE ON
TITAN'S PART.

HE FIGURED HIS PSI-
BLOCKERS WOULD
PROTECT HIM FROM
CABLE'S TELEPATHY
AND TELEKINESIS.

IN THAT
RESPECT HE
WAS ACTUALLY
RIGHT.

ARRGH!

THE THREAT DIDN'T
COME FROM CABLE.

SIASH
SIASH

SIASH
SIASH

NO NO NO NO NO!

STOP
FLAILING ABOUT,
YOU DECEREBRATE
GARGANTUA. JUST
STEP ON HER.

GOOD
WORK, LAURA.
HE'S HURT.

NOW TO
KEEP HIM OFF-
BALANCE!

ZARK!

MONET--I

AT YOUR
COMMAND,
CYCLOPS!

TAKE HIM
DOWN!

KPOW!

ARCHANGEL,
DEAR FRIEND--
THIS IS FOR
YOU!

BARABADOOM!



DON'T
WORRY, GUYS,
MY TELEKINETIC
ROPE WON'T
BREAK.

HOLD
ON, SOORAYA,
WE'RE ALMOST
HOME.

IT'S TOO
DANGEROUS,
CYCLOPS. SAVE
YOURSELF!

LET ME
GO!

NEVER!

WHATEVER
HAPPENS, PUST,
I WON'T LET
YOU FALL!



CRRRUMMBLE!



STOP IT!
STOP IT!
STOP IT!

I'M THE
EMPEROR!

I'M
SUPPOSED
TO WIN!



⊗ THE ASTRAL PLANE



GWUUUUHHHHH

DRAINED YOU
DRY, HAVE I, DEAREST
BROTHER?

NOT
A THOUGHT
LEFT TO CALL
YOUR OWN?

NAUGHTY NAUGHTY,
CHARLES—SEE WHAT A
MESS YOU'VE MADE OF
THE PLACE, PRIBBLING
THAT MAGNIFICENT
INTELLECT ALL OVER
YOURSELF.

YOU WERE
RIGHT TO BE
AFRAID OF
ME.

YOU ALWAYS
KNEW I WAS THE
SUPERIOR TWIN,
I WAS THE
ALPHA.

CASSANDRA
NOVA'S FORGOTTEN
ALL ABOUT ME.



NOW WE
BOTH HAVE
PROOF.

PROBABLY
FIGURES KING
PROFESSOR
XAVIER GIVES
HER THE BALL
GAME.

THE PHOENIX
REPRESENTS
ONE OF THE
PRIMAL FORCES
OF CREATION.

RACHEL'S MOTHER
WAS BONDED TO
IT, AS--TO A LESSER
EXTENT--WAS
RACHEL HERSELF.

FOR MOST OF
HER LIFE, RACHEL'S
DENIED THAT
BIRTHRIGHT.

BUT NOW SHE EMBRACES
IT, WITH ALL THE WILD
PASSION IN HER SOUL.







GREAT WORK,
NATHAN, YOU MAKE
ME PROUD!

THANKS, DAD--
BUT WE'RE NOT
OUT OF THE
WOODS YET!

YOU
THINK?

WE GETTING
BACKUP ANY-
TIME SOON?

'CAUSE WE
COULD SURE
USE IT!

PHOEBE, STAY
CLOSE, YOU'RE
MY COMLINK.

KEEP A
TELEPATHIC
"EAR" OUT FOR
CELESTE.



CABLE, FIND
RACHEL AND
GAMBIT!

MY
PLACE IS
BY YOUR
SIDE!

TRUST MY
JUDGMENT, BOY! I
KNOW WHAT I'M
DOING!

RACHEL IS
MORE IMPORTANT
HERE THAN SHE
REALIZES!

ZOM!



I DON'T
HAVE TIME TO
ARGUE!

DO AS
YOU'RE
DAMN
TOLD!

ZARK!

MAGNETO?!

OUR SITUATION
IS GRAVE, CYCLOPS,
AS ALWAYS.

THE ENEMY'S
SUPERIOR NUMBERS
ARE BEGINNING
TO TELL.

HOWEVER, IF MY
PERCEPTION OF
LOCAL PLANETARY
MAGNETIC FIELDS
IS IN ANYWAY
ACCURATE...



"...PLAN B IS JUST
NOW COMING TO
FRUITION."

THERE'S THE
STARJAMMER!

CONSIDER THIS
A MOMENT: THE
STARJAMMER
IS BIGGER THAN
MANHATTAN
ISLAND...

...YET THE ACANTI
CARRYING STORM'S
TEAM TO CHANDILAR
SWALLOWS IT WHOLE.

THE FATES
HAVE BLESSED US,
MY CHILDREN.

THIS FOOLISH
CREATURE THINKS
US TRAPPED--

--BUT WE SHALL MAKE
IT OUR SLAVE, AND CLAIM
IT BODY AND SOUL FOR OUR
HIVE, AS OUR BRETHREN
DID IN DAYS PAST.

SSSSSSSS

EH?!

GOOMBA!

THE
BROOD!

GOOMBA!

TAKE OFF
THE GLOVES,
LADIES.

WE DON'T
STOP 'TIL WE'RE
THE ONLY ONES LEFT
STANDING!

BISHOP WAS A BRAWLER,
A MAN OF BIG MOVES, WITH
BIGGER CONSEQUENCES.

SAGE WAS HIS POLAR OPPOSITE,
EVERY ACTION CALCULATED AND
PRECISE. MINIMAL EFFORT,
MAXIMUM EFFECT.

WHAT DEFINED PSYLOCKE, THOUGH,
WAS HER LINEARLY, INHUMAN GRACE.

SHE WAS THE PERSONIFICATION
OF BATTLE, IN ALL ITS GREAT
AND TERRIBLE BEAUTY AND
UTTERLY IRRESISTIBLE.

TO BEHOLD HER WAS TO
FALL INSTANTLY IN LOVE.

NIGHTCRAWLER--
NOCTURNE--
YOU'RE FREE!

AND BE HORRIFIED
AT HAVING DONE SO.

SOME OF
THE WARRIORS
ARE GETTING
AWAY!

INSIDE THE
COCOON,
SAGE--THAT'S
JEAN GREY!

THE STAR-
JAMMER'S
COMMAND
NETWORK
IS COMPLETELY
OFF-LINE!

IF I CAN
RESTORE IT, THE SHIP'S
INTERNAL SECURITY
SYSTEMS WILL DEAL
WITH THE BROOD
WHOLESALE!

I DON'T KNOW
THE STARJAMMER
WELL ENOUGH TO
TELEPORT
THROUGH--

--SO I'LL USE
ALIYAH'S FLIGHT-
PACK TO GO
AFTER THEM!

FAR BETTER,
MEAT, THAT YOU
STAY HERE
AND DIE!

ARRGH!



BACK OFF!

TELEPORT
CLEAR, NIGHT-
CRAWLER. LEAVE
THESE BUGS
TO ME!



BISHOP, TAKE
THIS!
I MUST HELP
NOCTURNE!

YOU'LL HAVE
TO SAVE JEAN
AND ALYAH ON
YOUR OWN!



AS GOOD
AS DONE,
KURT.



THE ENTIRE
NETWORK'S
CRASHED.

I'LL HAVE
TO REBUILD
THE COMMAND
PATHS FROM
SCRATCH!



PRIORITIZE,
SAGE DARLING!

TURN YOUR BACK
ON THESE LOVELIES,
AND IT'S THE LAST THING
YOU'LL EVER DO!



I'M
BUSY.

WE'RE OUT-
NUMBERED.

AND THERE
I THOUGHT YOU
LOVED A GOOD
FIGHT...

THE MORE
IMPOSSIBLE
THE ODDS, THE
BETTER.



THIS FLIGHT
FACES A PIECE
OF JUNK!

THEY'RE OUT-
RUNNING ME!

IF THEY
SPLIT UP, OR
DUCK INTO A SIDE
CORRIDOR--?!



CAN'T
GIVE 'EM THE
CHANCE!

GOTTA
TAKE THE
SHOT--

ZORCH!



--WHATEVER
THE RISK!



JEAN'S PROTECTED
BY THAT COCOON--
BUT THE GIRL!

A FALL
FROM THIS
HEIGHT--!



GOTCHA!





NOW LET'S
SEE,
CASSANDRA...

...WHAT THE
INSIDE OF
YOUR--?

WHERE'D
SHE GO?

FOOLISH CHILD--
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD
THE OLD PICTUM ABOUT
EXPERIENCE AND GUILE
BEING FAR MORE THAN
A MATCH FOR STRENGTH
AND YOUTH?

TELL ME, DEAR
STARCHILD--

--WHO'S
TRAPPED
WHOM?

INSERTION
ANGLE'S RIGHT
ON THE MONEY.

HEAT-PLUME
IS NOMINAL.

ICEMAN--ARE
YOU SURE YOUR
ICE IS THICK ENOUGH
TO HANDLE THE
ATMOSPHERIC
FRICTION?

DAZZLER,
MONEY, I'M
A PRO.

AND I'M
A RESERVE
X-MAN.

BOBBY,
I SING FOR A
LIVING, REMEMBER?
I SAVE THE UNIVERSE
IN MY SPARE
TIME.

FORGIVE ME
FOR BEING A TAD
NERVOUS.

YOU'LL
DO FINE,
ALISON.

HUSH NOW,
PLEASE, WHILE I
CONCENTRATE.

IN YOUNGER DAYS, CONTROLLING
THE WEATHER-ELEMENTS CAME AS
NATURALLY TO STORM AS BREATHING.

BUT THERE
WAS A COST.

NOW, WHEN SHE SUMMONED
THE LIGHTNING--GENERATING AN
ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE
STRONG ENOUGH TO K.O. THE
PLANETARY DEFENSE ORG--
SHE FRIED EVEN MORE OF HER
OWN NERVOUS SYSTEM.

SHE COULDN'T MOVE
WITHOUT HER EXO-SUIT.

IN TIME, EVEN THAT
WOULDN'T HELP.

BUT SHE WAS AN X-MAN--AND
FOR THE GREATER GOOD, SHE
ACCEPTED THE SACRIFICE.

TOASPIE: BOBBY, WE
MUST STOP
THE BATTLE!

ABSOLUTELY!

THAT'S WHY
WE'RE HERE, FEARLESS
LEADER, TO KICK MAJOR
SHYR BUTTSKIS!

I'M NOT
TALKING
ABOUT
VICTORY,
ROBERT.

WELL--
I'M OPEN
TO BRIGHT
IDEAS.

SOMETHING
IS VERY WRONG
ON-PLANET. WE
HAVE TO STOP THE
FIGHTING.
COMPLETELY--
NOW!

STOP!

THAT'S
STORM'S
VOICE!

3

AND DAZZLER'S
LIGHT SHOW!



IN THE MIST OF
BATTLE, I COME TO
YOU IN PEACE--

--BECAUSE THERE
ARE FORCES AT WORK
HERE GREATER AND
MORE MALEVOLENT
THAN ANY OF US
SUSPECT!

THE IDEA WAS FOR PAZZLER
TO GENERATE A FLASH SO
BRIGHT YOU COULDN'T HELP
BUT LOOK, ACROSS A SPECIFIC
CHROMATIC SPECTRUM THAT
WOULD CALM EVERYONE'S
PASSIONS--AND HOPEFULLY
BUY ORORO TIME TO MAKE
HER POINT.

YOU DID THIS,
MAGNETO!

WHEN YOU
UNLEASHED YOUR
DAMNABLE FORCE-
PULSE!

THAT WAS PLUTONIA'S
DOING, REMEMBER, WHEN
SHE ATTACKED ME?

I AM
NO MONSTER,
GLADIATOR. I DO
NOT SLAY INDIS-
CRIMINATELY, AND
ESPECIALLY NOT
INNOCENTS.

WHY SHOULD
WE BELIEVE
YOU?

GLADIATOR,
LET ME KILL
HER WHERE SHE
STANDS!

DON'T YOU
KNOW WHAT'S
HAPPENED?

OUR MAJESTRIX
WAS MURDERED BECAUSE
OF YOU X-MEN. WHAT
ELSE MATTERS?

POOR LILANDRA
DID NOT DIE
ALONE.

GLADIATOR,
EVERY LIVING
SOUL ON
CHANDILAR,
BEYOND THIS
PALACE--

--THEY'RE
DEAD.

THIS IS WAY
MORE THAN
COLLATERAL
DAMAGE.

THESE EVENTS
WERE SET IN
MOTION FOR A
REASON.

WE'VE BEEN
FIGHTING SO HARD,
NONSTOP, THERE'S
BEEN NO TIME TO SEE
THE PATTERN.

YOU SNUFF OUT BILLIONS OF LIVES IN AN INSTANT, THAT REPRESENTS AN UNIMAGINABLE STOREHOUSE OF PSYCHIC ENERGY.

BUT IF THAT POWER'S TO BE USED AGAINST THE X-MEN, WHY PROVOKE A BATTLE WITH THE IMPERIAL GUARD?

AND WE'RE NOT EVEN ALL HERE.

WE CAME BECAUSE WE WERE ATTACKED.

WE WERE ATTACKED, APPARENTLY BECAUSE JEAN RE-MANIFESTED AS PHOENIX.

SCOTT, SLIPSTREAM JUST GRABBED JEAN. SHE'S BEEN CAPTURED!

SCOTT, GLADIATOR-- WE'VE ALL BEEN MANIPULATED!

PLUTONIA CLAIMED SHE WAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE "IMMENSITY."

THAT WOULD BE ME.

JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, EH, GLADIATOR? ONLY NOW I'M FAR MORE AMBITIOUS.

I MEAN TO FULFILL THE DESTINY OF THE PHOENIX--

--AND BRING ABOUT "THE END OF ALL-THAT-IS!"

ZAKRAM!

⊗ NEXT: THEIR FINAL HOUR!



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KRYPTON



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milla - dcp